



## AHI HOSTS 37TH HELLENIC HERITAGE ACHIEVEMENT AND AWARDS DINNER



AHI 2012 Honorees: (L-R) Ambassador Tom Korologos, E.J. "Mike" Elliott, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, Dr. Sotirios Vahaviolos and Kary Antholis.

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) hosted its 37th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and Public Service Awards Dinner, March 10, 2012, Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.

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## PIPES KEYNOTES AHI POLICY FORUM ON TURKISH POLICY



View of the Panel Presentation.

AHI hosted the policy forum "The Evolution of Turkey's Policy in the Eastern Mediterranean: Implications for U.S. Interests" featuring Keynote Speaker Daniel Pipes, president, Middle East Forum and Taube Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University; and a panel of experts who examined the topic on February 6, 2012 at the Capital Hilton, Washington, DC.

In his keynote speech, Pipes demonstrated how Turkey's ruling AKP government has evolved over three elections to become a truly bellicose party since its initial election to power

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## FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN ATTENDS SCREENING OF CYPRUS DOCUMENTARY



(L-R): President Larigakis, U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee; Dr. George Kafkoulis chairman of the board, The Archimedean Academy; Aleco Haralambides, founding member and vice president, Archimedean Academy & AHI board member.

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, was the guest speaker at an AHI "Town Hall Screening" of the one-hour documentary "Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure" held February 10, 2012, at the Archimedean Academy Amphitheater, Miami, Fla.

In remarks, Chairman Ros-Lehtinen described the "overwhelming military force" used by Turkey in the invasion of Cyprus by citing a BBC interview of Antonis Antoniou, who was five years old at the time, and she spoke of the unfortunate consequences of the invasion that resulted in thousands of

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in 2002. He added that it will be “difficult to credit future elections,” hinting that Turkey’s 2011 election may be its last democratic one. Pipes believes Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is attempting to undo the Ataturk revolution taking Turkey from a secular nation to Shari’a Law; from “small Turkey” to neo-empire; and away from Europe.



(L-R) Nick Larigakis, Daniel Pipes and Gene Rossides.

Domestically, Pipes cited the following concerns: the growing anti-American sentiment in Turkish public opinion, the Gulen Movement’s penetration of law enforcement, the government’s favoritism toward a network of Islamic companies, the privileges extended toward Islamic media and the large volume of jailed journalists, and the jailing of top military personnel under the Ergenekon conspiracy. On foreign policy, Pipes recounted how he was impressed by Turkey’s lack of interest in the Middle East and its European direction when he visited in 1992. Now, Pipes points to Turkey’s “zero problems” foreign policy as leading to an increased focus on the Middle East, an intense meddling into Iraqi affairs, hostility toward Israel, ambitions to control Syria, a reversal on Libya, and support for Hamas. The result is Prime Minister Erdogan has become the “Hero of the Arab Street,” according to Pipes. He cited additional emerging threats toward Cyprus and Israel over oil and gas exploration in the eastern Mediterranean, a boycott of the EU during the Republic of Cyprus’ Presidency of the European Union Council, Kastelorizo should Greece expand its economic exclusive zone (EEZ), and telling Turks not to integrate into German society.

Pipes identified several security concerns with respect to United States interests which began March 1, 2003 when Turkey’s parliament turned down the United States’ request to open a northern front against Iraq. He described this act as a “jolt” to the relationship. Additional security concerns Pipes cited include Turkey’s joint military exercises with China and cooperation with Brazil to sideline UN sanctions on Iran’s nuclear program. However, he did identify areas of cooperation with United States interests that include Syria and the position of a radar system focused on Iran.

Pipes concluded that although Iran is the greatest immediate threat to the Middle East, Turkey presents the most dangerous long-term threat because unlike Iran the AKP government is legitimately elected to power and is working through demo-

cratic means. He also opined that Turkey’s NATO membership should be either suspended or terminated based upon its actions with China, opposition to Libya, and the pressure it has applied on the NATO establishment to place Turkish officials in key positions.

The panel of experts discussing the topic featured: Dr. Harry Dinella, former U.S. Army Foreign Area Officer for Greece and AHI Fellow; Professor Van Coufoudakis, rector emeritus, University of Nicosia, Cyprus and former president, Modern Greek Studies Association and AHIF Fellow; Doug Bandow, senior fellow, Cato Institute; and Dr. Raphael Danziger, senior research advisor, Policy & Government Affairs, AIPAC and editor-in-chief emeritus, *Near East Report*. James Jatras, principal, Squire Sanders Public Advocacy and former senior foreign policy advisor, Republican leadership of the U.S. Senate, moderated the panel.

### **FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN ATTENDS SCREENING OF CYPRUS DOCUMENTARY**

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Greek-Cypriots killed; sixteen hundred reported missing; and over two hundred thousand forcibly expelled from their homes and driven into exile. The congresswoman also cited the religious and cultural destruction that has occurred under Turkish occupation and the violations of religious freedom, including the interruption of Christmas Day liturgy in 2010.

“That is why it is important that films such as you will see tonight remind us of the continued presence of foreign forces on the island and the violence and division that has resulted,” Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen said, who understands the suffering of refugees because she is also one from Cuba. “So I know from my own experience what is at stake if we in this country fail to support the Greek-Cypriots in their struggle.”

Moreover, the congresswoman emphasized her repeated efforts to press for the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Cyprus in communications with the Obama administration and meetings with Turkish officials, including most recently Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. “...I am determined to continue to press him and every Turkish official I meet with until they understand that the U.S. will not abandon Cyprus and will continue to make it an issue in U.S.-Turkish relations until there is a just settlement,” Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen said.

A discussion about the documentary and the Cyprus issue featuring AHI President Larigakis followed the screening and the congresswoman’s remarks. Aleco Haralambides, Esq., founding member and vice president, Archimedean Academy, and AHI board member, moderated. The event was held in cooperation with The Archimedean Schools and Dolphin Capital Partners.

### **Screenings Continue Throughout U.S.**

AHI kicked-off its 2012 series of “Town Hall Screenings” of “Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure” at Founders Hall, St. Katherine’s Greek Orthodox Church, Falls

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Church, Va., January 18, 2012. A discussion about the documentary and the Cyprus issue featuring AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHI Board of Directors Secretary Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq., followed. Attorney Arthur Dimopoulos, publisher, *Odyssey*, moderated the panel discussion, and St. Katherine's Parish Council President Jim Stoucker offered opening remarks. Olympia Neocleous, deputy chief of mission, Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, was also present. The event was held in cooperation with the Col. Peter N. Derzis AHEPA Chapter 438, Arlington, Va.

The documentary was also screened on both coasts of the United States. On March 31, 2012, the Hermes Expo International, at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, N.J. served as the venue for a screening. A discussion about the documentary and the Cyprus issue featuring AHI President Larigakis and Ambassador Achilleas Antoniadis followed. The event was held in cooperation with the Hermes Expo and the Hermes Young Professional Initiative. AHI is grateful to the organizers of the Hermes Expo, including its Founder Paul Kotrotsios and Ms. Aphrodite Kotrotsios, director, Hermes Young Professional Initiative, for helping to organize the screening, which proved to be a success.

In April, the "Town Hall Screenings" came to San Diego, April 17 and Seattle, April 19. In San Diego, it was held at the University of California, San Diego Faculty Club in cooperation with the Hellenic Cultural Society of San Diego and North San Diego County AHEPA Chapter 505. Dr. Thomas Gallant, Nicholas Family Endowed Chair, professor of Modern Greek History, UC, San Diego, moderated the discussion. In Seattle, the event was held at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in cooperation with AHEPA Chapter 177, The Hellenes of the Northwest, Greek-American Historical Museum of Washington State, and Daughters of Penelope Alcides Chapter 160. Dr. Nektaria Klapaki, University of Washington Hellenic Studies Program, moderated.

The documentary concluded 2011 with a screening held December 14 in Norfolk, VA. AHEPA Chapter 122 House was the venue. It was held in cooperation with the Cyprus Benevolent Society of Tidewater, Va., and AHEPA Robert E. Lee Chapter 122, Norfolk. Dr. Christopher Nicholas helped to organize the screening and moderated the panel discussion that followed.

Thus far, the documentary has been screened in 18 cities throughout North America.

### **AHI PRESIDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL AHEPA HONOR**

AHI President Nick Larigakis received a national honor from the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) before an audience of 200 prominent Greek American and community leaders on Capitol Hill, March 28, 2012. President Larigakis received the inaugural AHEPA Outstanding Public Advocacy Award at AHEPA's "Salute to Civic Responsibility" Dinner.

The AHEPA Outstanding Public Advocacy Award, which was presented by AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis, recognizes individuals who demonstrate unbridled passion in the

course of advocating for a public policy issue or cause. AHEPA cited Larigakis' steadfast advocacy on Capitol Hill, in the grassroots, and in the op-ed pages of influential publications as the basis for his honor.



*AHI President Nick Larigakis (center) receives the 2012 AHEPA Outstanding Public Advocacy Award from AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis (left) and AHEPA Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides (right).*

In acceptance, AHI President Larigakis spoke about the importance of defending our proud Hellenic culture and the influence his parents had upon instilling these values in him as a teenager. He said, "I take exceptional honor and humility to receive an award tonight with such distinguished honorees... There is special meaning for me to receive this award tonight, the first of its kind, from AHEPA and to receive it on Capitol Hill because when the American Hellenic Institute was founded in 1974, its number one priority was that invasion of Cyprus.

"With AHEPA's money we were able to put into place an embargo against the Republic of Turkey for its illegal invasion of Cyprus against extraordinary odds at the time. It is not something anyone of us should take lightly—that victory."

Larigakis called on the Greek American community to rededicate itself to the issues and challenged the community to start resolving them, moving past the introduction of congressional resolutions. He also thanked the AHI staff for the support it provides to him as AHI president.

Also honored along with President Larigakis were: U.S. Congressmen John Sarbanes (D-MD) and Ed Royce (R-CA), both of whom received the AHEPA Pericles Award; and Cyprus Federation of America President Panicos Papanicolaou, who received the inaugural AHEPA Excellence in Leadership Award.

### **AHI SUBMITS TESTIMONY TO HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

AHI submitted testimony to the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs on the Obama Administration's foreign aid proposals for FY2013 on April 24, 2012.

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In the best interests of the United States, AHI's testimony opposed:

1. any military assistance the administration will request for Turkey until Turkey removes its troops and illegal Turkish settlers in Cyprus;
2. aid the administration will request for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM); and
3. any reduction that might be introduced in the aid levels for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

In addition, the testimony strongly opposed the continued reduction of Economic Support Fund (ESF) funding for Cyprus. The FY2013 proposed level of funding is \$3.2 million. However, AHI testified that it supports continued ESF funding for Cyprus as long as it is tied exclusively to bi-communal projects of the island as mandated by U.S. law. The law states U.S. funds are to support only "measures aimed at reunification."

"It is vital to ensure the Greek American community's positions on American foreign aid to this region are submitted for the public record via the Subcommittee's acceptance of written testimony," said President Nick Larigakis, who submitted the testimony. "We thank the Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit our testimony which is presented with the best interest of the United States in mind."

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs is chaired by U.S. Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX). U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) is the ranking member. To read the testimony, please visit [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org).

### AHI HOSTS ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL SALUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE

AHI celebrated the 191st anniversary of Greek Independence Day by hosting its annual "Congressional Salute to Greek Independence Day," on March 21, 2012. The common democratic ideals held by Greece and the United States were reaffirmed by several members of Congress at the event which was held in cooperation with the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

Members of Congress who addressed the audience included (in order of appearance): U.S. Reps. Steve Chabot (R-OH), Niki Tsongas (D-MA), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), John Sarbanes (D-MD), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee; Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Joe Crowley (D-NY), Doug Lamborn (R-CO), and Michael Turner (R-OH).

AHI President Larigakis served as Master of Ceremonies. Special guest speakers were Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Vassilis Kaskarelis and Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the U.S. Pavlos Anastasiades. Dignitaries in attendance included: former U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes, former Congresswoman Dina Titus, who is currently a congressional candidate for Nevada's First Congressional District; Greek Defense Attaché, Col. Taxiarchis Sardellis, AHEPA

Executive Director Basil Mossaidis and HALC Executive Director Endy Zemenides. Representatives from the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) joined AHI and the Greek American community in celebration of Greek Independence.



Ambassador of Greece to the United States Vassilis Kaskarelis.



(L-R) Nick Larigakis, Congressman Michael Turner (R-OH), (center) students from the Greek School of Saint Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church, (center front) Congressman Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Congresswoman Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis.

The speakers emphasized their admiration for Hellenic culture and for the valiant and inspirational struggle for Greek Independence achieved in 1821. They also expressed their support for a proper settlement of the Cyprus issue, a proper resolution to the FYROM name-recognition issue, and religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. A presentation of traditional Greek dances was performed by the Return to Origins Greek Folk Dance Troupe under the direction of Rena Papapostolou. The students of the Greek School of Saint Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, Va., sang the national anthems of the United States and Greece.

## AHI GENERAL NEWS

### AHI BOOK EVENT COMMEMORATES TRUMAN DOCTRINE, MARSHALL PLAN



(L-R) Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States, Pavlos Anastasiadis, Ambassador of Greece to the United States, Vassilis Kaskarelis, Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Photini Tomai and Nick Larigakis.

AHI, in cooperation with the Embassy of Greece, hosted a book presentation and reception in commemoration of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, March 6, 2012, on Capitol Hill. Ms. Photini Tomai, director, Service of Diplomatic & Historical Archives, Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made a presentation about the book, “Documentary History of Greece: 1943-1951, Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan” of which she was the editor. The event was supported by U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-chairs, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues and sponsored by the Onassis Foundation.

Tomai’s book utilizes more than 180 documents to detail the implications of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan to Greece. In her presentation, Tomai identified as being quite clear the impetus by scholars and archivists for undertaking the documentary project, which was to properly commemorate the Marshall Plan—a “generous program” that contributed “decisively to the triumphant reemergence” of Europe after World War II.

Although Tomai made it quite clear she was not making a plea for a similar economic aid package for Greece today, she did convey that the lessons of the Marshall Plan must not be lost and that America has everything to gain from teaching those lessons today. “We are grateful for the support your government has signaled for the Eurozone and Greece as a member of that union,” she said.

Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis, ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the United States, and U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee, provided remarks. Other members of Congress in attendance were: U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis, Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), and Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX).

### AHI HONORED AT PHILADELPHIA GREEK INDEPENDENCE PARADE



(L-R): AHEPA Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides, U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, AHI President Nick Larigakis.

AHI was honored at the 2012 Philadelphia Greek Independence Day Parade presented by the Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of Philadelphia and the Greater Delaware Valley. It was the first time an institution has received such an honor by the Federation. The parade was held Sunday, March 18, 2012.

AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiros Spireas served as the parade’s Grand Marshal, which is the highest honor afforded by the Federation. It was bestowed to Dr. Spireas in appreciation of his many works as a prominent businessperson and efforts on behalf of the Greek American community, Metropolis, and his unwavering support of Hellenic issues. AHI Founder Eugene Rossides and AHI President Larigakis were also unanimously selected Honorary Marshals. Presidents Larigakis and Dr. Spireas celebrated Greek Independence along with Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD), Mr. Georgios Iliopoulos, consul-general in New York, Hellenic Republic, and Ms. Koula Sophianou, consul-general in New York, Republic of Cyprus. Mr. Rossides was unable to attend.

According to the Federation’s announcement, its goal was to highlight the good works of AHI and to encourage others to support the Institute. “The best part of our efforts as a Federation is to highlight and promote Hellenism in the Philadelphia area,” said Federation Board of Trustees Chairman George Horiates, Esq. “It is a lifelong labor of love. This is the first time that AHI is being honored in this fashion. It is a tribute to the man behind the title, a tribute to Dr. Spireas and Messrs. Larigakis and Rossides, and indeed a tribute to the American Hellenic Institute.”

### AHI CELEBRATES GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

AHI celebrated Greek Independence Day at the White House on March 22, 2012. AHI President Nick Larigakis attended the ceremony officiated by President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. "We thank President Obama for demonstrating 'philotimo' toward the Greek American community by hosting this event to honor Greek Independence," Larigakis said. "The event served to reaffirm the strong bonds of friendship between Greece and the United States and to bring attention to the fact that this relationship is etched intrinsically by virtue of the noble democratic ideals and principles that guided our Founding Fathers in establishing our own country."

### AHI PRESIDENT ATTENDS WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

Prior to the celebration of Greek Independence Day at the White House on March 22, AHI President Larigakis attended a White House briefing on U.S.-Greece relations with Administration officials to discuss important topics of concern including: an economic update, Greek-American community engagement efforts, and the White House Business Council.

President Larigakis shared his views on how U.S.-Greece relations can be strengthened, including ways to assist with Greece's economic crisis. For example, he suggested the United States can send a positive message by having the U.S. commerce secretary lead a delegation of American business leaders to Greece. He noted that there has not been any significant American investment in Greece for more than thirty years. Larigakis also commented on the foreign policy challenges impacting Greece and the eastern Mediterranean region, which are core policy issues for the Greek American community that require proper resolutions. He cited NATO ally Turkey's continued occupation of the Republic of Cyprus, which is an EU nation; and the importance of securing religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

"The Greek American community would like to see the Administration, in fact all Administrations, be properly engaged with it on foreign policy discussions as they pertain to U.S.-Greece and U.S.-Cyprus relations," Larigakis said.

### AHI IN THE NEWS

*The Washington Post* article "Washington can be a frontline for international combatants" by Emily Wax (January 11, 2012) featured a quote from President Nick Larigakis. In the article, Larigakis affirmed proximity to the U.S. government as an explanation to the importance of Washington to the lobbying efforts of ethnic and international advocacy groups.

"Our arsenal is not weapons," said Nick Larigakis, president of the American Hellenic Institute, which promotes U.S. relations with Greece and Cyprus and is often at odds with Turkey's

goals. "It's having a voice in Washington where we can use the rule of law to provide credibility to our arguments."

A video piece compiled by *Chicago Tribune* Columnist John Kass titled "On America and Greece, lessons to be learned" posted April 4, 2012, featured an interview with AHI President Nick Larigakis. Kass reports on Greece's economy, its effect on the Greek people, and ponders if it is a foreshadowing of what is to come to America. In his interview, Larigakis affirms Greece's resiliency based upon it being the standard-bearer of democratic ideals and the cradle of Western Civilization. "What is happening in Greece today pales by comparison in terms of what has transpired within the glorious history of this country for over 2,500 years," Larigakis said. To view the video, please visit [www.aheworld.org](http://www.aheworld.org).

### Letters to the Editor

The *Washington Times* published a letter to the editor on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 written by President Larigakis. "Macedonia is Hellenic Name" was submitted in response to the February 7, 2012 article "Macedonia complains Greece is 'irrational,'" by Ben Birnbaum. In the article, FYROM's Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki "complains" Greece is being "irrational" on the name recognition issue and that Greece's position is "unreasonable." Larigakis defended Greece by asserting FYROM is acting irrationally with its leadership thinking it can "usurp 2,500 years of Hellenic history and culture." He cited examples of provocative actions taken by FYROM against Greece, including renaming its airport and naming its national highway after Alexander the Great. "FYROM's provocations are irrational because they do not display good neighborly relations required of a NATO member," wrote Larigakis. In closing, Larigakis contended FYROM need only blame her own irrational position for not being in NATO and not Greece, which "has already compromised on the issue."

### Op-Eds

#### "Greek Independence Day and the Athenian Oath: Let us be Reminded of Our Duty"

By Nick Larigakis, March 20, 2012. Appearing in *The National Herald*, *The Hellenic Voice*, *The Hellenic News of America*, and *Greek News*.

For complete versions of the referenced items in "AHI In the News," please visit AHI's web site at [www.aheworld.org/press\\_releases/](http://www.aheworld.org/press_releases/).

### STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### AHI Foundation Publishes Winter 2011-12 Online Policy Journal

On January 12, 2012, the AHI Foundation (AHIF) announced the third volume release of its Winter 2011-12 Online Policy Journal. "This issue of the AHIF policy journal addresses a

cluster of national and international issues pertinent to the interests of Greece, Cyprus, and the United States,” writes Professor Dan Georgakas, editor, Online Policy Journal, in the Forward. “Our coverage offers a mix of strategy, documentation, tactics, and analysis that aims to enrich public discourse on these issues.”

### **AHI Releases 2011 Annual Report**

On March 29, 2012 AHI announced the release of its 2011 Annual Report. “All of AHI’s policy-based programs and initiatives for 2011 that advance the best interests of the United States on issues of importance to the Greek American community are encapsulated in this report,” said President Larigakis. “We are especially proud to highlight the series of ‘Town Hall Screenings’ that took place worldwide of the documentary ‘Cyprus Still Divided: A U.S. Foreign Policy Failure,’ AHI’s first visit to Israel, and recap successful annual programs including our ‘Future of Hellenism in America’ Conference, among others.”

### **AHI Joins Call for Investigation of Turkish Airstrike on Kurds**

AHI joined with Armenian American and Kurdish American organizations asking Congress to call upon the Obama administration to investigate the use of U.S. arms in a December 28, 2011 Turkish airstrike that killed 35 Kurdish boys and young men along the Turkey-Iraq border. In a letter dated January 10, 2012, the organizations requested an investigation and public report to Congress to see whether Turkey violated U.S. arms export laws by using American-supplied weaponry in the airstrike. The American Kurdish Information Network, Armenian National Committee of America, Kurdish Human Rights Watch, and Kurdish National Congress of North America were also signatories to the letter, which was addressed to the bipartisan leaderships of the congressional committee’s overseeing the State Department and Pentagon.

### **AHI Welcomes Berman’s Letter to Secretary Clinton on Cyprus**

AHI welcomed a March 22, 2012 letter by U.S. Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, sent to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that draws attention to two Cyprus-related developments perpetrated by Turkey and calls for a reassessment of the United States’ Cyprus policy. The two developments cited by Rep. Berman are Turkey’s threatened military action in response to Cyprus’ hydrocarbon exploration in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and Turkey’s ongoing efforts to alter the demographic composition of Cyprus.

“The reunification of the Republic of Cyprus is of critical importance to the stability of the Eastern Mediterranean, a vital U.S. interest,” wrote Rep. Berman. “That’s why I am deeply disturbed by two Cyprus-related developments...These developments directly undermine long-standing elements of the U.S. position in support of Cyprus reunification and call into ques-

tion our ability to sustain that position.”

“We welcome Ranking Member Berman’s letter which aims to bring these two concerns to Secretary of State Clinton’s attention and calls for a reassessment of the United States’ Cyprus policy,” said President Nick Larigakis. “Through its Policy Statements, the American Hellenic Institute has long called on the U.S. government to undertake a specific set of actions to resolve the Cyprus issue in a manner that upholds the rule of law, which includes respect for international law.”

### **AHI, AHEPA Express Disappointment to Airline on Athens Route Cancellation**

AHI and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) sent a joint letter to United Continental Holdings Inc.’s President and Chief Executive Officer Jeffery A. Smisek to express disappointment with United Continental’s November 2011 decision to terminate the seasonal non-stop flight from Newark (EWR) to Athens, Greece, which was a Continental route. AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis strongly recommended United Continental to rethink the decision, and as an alternative, add a seasonal summer route from Washington/Dulles to Athens thus connecting two of the world’s greatest capital cities. In addition, Larigakis and Mossaidis requested a meeting with Mr. Smisek to discuss the issue in greater depth.

### **AHI Welcomes Line of Questioning about Turkey in GOP South Carolina Debate**

AHI welcomed the line of questioning on whether Turkey belongs in NATO as raised by *Fox News* Anchor Bret Baier during the *Fox News/Wall Street Journal* Republican Debate in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on January 16, 2012.

During the debate, Baier raised the following question to Republican Presidential Candidate *Governor Rick Perry*: “*Governor Perry, since the Islamist-oriented party took over in Turkey, the murder rate of women has increased 1,400 percent there. Press freedom has declined to the level of Russia. The prime minister of Turkey has embraced Hamas and Turkey has threatened military force against both Israel and Cyprus. Given Turkey’s turn, do you believe Turkey still belongs in NATO?*”

“This is a welcomed discussion especially at the presidential debate level,” said AHI President Nick Larigakis.

### **AHI Welcomes Commentary Warning of Turkish Aggression in Mediterranean**

AHI welcomed a commentary titled “Kastelorizo: Mediterranean Flashpoint?” by Daniel Pipes, president, Middle East Forum and Taube Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, which was published in *The Washington Times* on Feb. 9, 2012. Pipes writes: “*Turkey’s prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and his ruling AKP party colleagues accept Greek control of Kastelorizo and its six nautical miles of territorial waters, but not more and certainly not its full EEZ rights. Indeed, in their eyes, Greek assertion of an EEZ constitutes a*

*casus belli*. By neutering Kastelorizo, Ankara can lay claim to a large economic area in the Mediterranean and block cooperation among its adversaries. This is why the island could become a flashpoint.” Pipes correctly cites increased Turkish belligerence and aggressiveness toward Cyprus, Israel, Iraq, and Syria since the AKP government took full control of the Turkish army in July.

### **AHI Welcomes European Parliament’s Written Declaration on Famagusta**

AHI welcomed a written declaration issued by the European Parliament calling on the government of Turkey to act according to UN Security Council Resolutions and previous European Parliament Legislative Committee reports and return the Famagusta sealed-off section to its lawful inhabitants.

The written declaration begins with “whereas the city of Famagusta in the Republic of Cyprus was captured by the invading Turkish forces in August 1974,” which is language strongly supported by AHI. “Oftentimes, the word ‘invasion’ tends to get dropped from the lexicon of those who discuss the Cyprus issue,” said President Larigakis. “We cannot forget we are talking about an invasion and occupation of a current member of the European Union in the Republic of Cyprus.” It also contains language noting UN Security Council resolutions 550 (1984) and 789 (1992), which speak to the transfer of this area to the United Nations and the 1979 High Level Agreement between the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities, which stated that priority should be given to the resettlement of Famagusta under the UN auspices. The declaration also “calls on the Government of Turkey to act according to the aforementioned UNSC Resolutions and Report Recommendations and return the Famagusta sealed-off section to its lawful inhabitants, who must resettle under conditions of security and peace” urging the EU institutions to coordinate their efforts with Parliament to promote Turkey’s cooperation.

The European Parliament intends to send the declaration to the European Commission, the European Council, the governments of the European Union’s member-states, the UN Secretary General and the government of Turkey. In all, 390 members of the European Parliament signed it on February 2, 2012.

### **AHI Commends Designating Turkey a “Country of Particular Concern”**

On April 11, 2012 AHI commended the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) on the release of its 2012 Annual Report which designates Turkey a “Country of Particular Concern” (CPC). By designating Turkey a CPC, the USCIRF is recommending Secretary of State Hillary Clinton designate it a CPC as well.

“We applaud the Commission for correctly identifying Turkey as a ‘country of particular concern,’ meaning the Turkish government has engaged in, or has tolerated, particularly severe violations of religious freedom,” said President Larigakis. “Also by designating Turkey as a CPC, the Commission reaffirms

the Turkish government’s continued tolerance of assaults upon its many minority populations including the Greek Orthodox Christian minority and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. These are all actions that violate the founding principles and laws of the United States.”

The Commission’s report specifically cites Turkey’s policies that: deny non-Muslim communities the right to train clergy, including the closure of the Greek Orthodox Halki Patriarchal School of Theology; officially do not accord the ecclesiastical title “ecumenical” to the Ecumenical Patriarch; interfere in the internal governance of the Greek Orthodox community; and retain the power to expropriate religious minority properties.

## LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

### **January 25, 2012—Secretary Hillary Clinton**

AHI sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton regarding Turkey’s reliability as a NATO ally. The letter requests Secretary Clinton to conduct a critical review of United States policy toward Turkey in light of recent national debate and discussion about the topic that emanated as a result of the January 16, 2012 Republican Presidential Candidate Debate held in Myrtle Beach, S.C. AHI contends Turkey is an unreliable ally, and through its actions, has undermined NATO over the decades. To view AHI’s letter to Secretary Clinton: [http://ahi-world.org/pdfs/letter\\_to\\_ClintonGovPerry.pdf](http://ahi-world.org/pdfs/letter_to_ClintonGovPerry.pdf).

## ACTION ALERTS

### **April 3, 2012**

AHI chapter presidents, members, and friends were urged to contact United Continental Holdings Inc.’s President and CEO Jeffery Smisek to express disappointment with the cancellation of the seasonal non-stop from Newark, N.J. to Athens, Greece and to recommend the addition of a seasonal non-stop route from Washington/Dulles to Athens.

### **April 10, 2012**

AHI chapter presidents, team leaders, members and friends were urged to contact President Obama and encourage the administration to maintain its correct position on FYROM NATO membership in advance of the NATO summit to be held in Chicago May 20-21, 2012.

### **April 26, 2012**

AHI chapter presidents, team leaders, members and friends were urged to contact their U.S. representatives to urge them to co-sponsor H.Res.627, which was introduced by U.S. Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), co-chairs of the Hellenic Caucus. H.Res.627 calls on FYROM to abstain from all hostile activities and stop violating provisions of the United Nations-brokered Interim Agreement and urges the United States Government to work in partnership with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies to uphold previous NATO Summits decisions, with regard to the enlargement issue

## AHI GENERAL NEWS/BUSINESS NETWORK

and extend an invitation to FYROM as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue has been reached within the framework of the United Nations.

### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Ted Pedas.

**TED PEDAS**, President of Circle Management Company of Washington, DC, was awarded the prestigious Marquee Award by the National Association of Theatre Owners. The ceremony took place in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 24, 2012. More than 5,000 film and theater industry representatives gathered for the event at Caesars Palace. "Ted Pedas is being singled out by the theater

owners for his unequalled dedication, commitment and service to the business and community of the motion picture theatre industry," said Mitch Neuhauser, the Executive Director of Cinema-Com.



Anna Giabourani.

**ANNA GIABOURANI**, a dual-qualified lawyer in the U.S. and Greece, and AHI member, was recently appointed as head of the Withers Bergman LLP Greece Special Interest Group (SIG) practice while she continues to lead the firm's International Corporate Finance and Projects practice in the US. Anna also serves as general outside counsel to Greek privately-

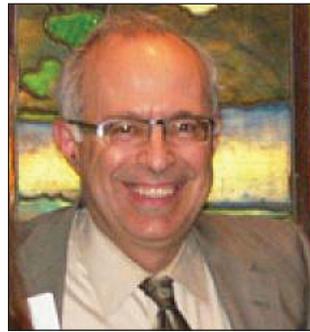
owned businesses and family offices. In that role she coordinates the delivery of fully-integrated client services designed to manage, maximize, and protect client's global investments and assets.



Nicolas Bornozis.

**Capital Link**, an international investor relations and financial advisory group founded and led by **NICOLAS BORNOZIS**, has received several accolades recently. In December 2011 the company received the Piraeus International Centre Award at the 8th Annual Lloyd's List Greek Shipping Awards, in recognition of its "outstanding service to Greek shipping clients

and for raising the profile of Greek shipping within the wider investment community." In March 2012 Intercontinental Finance Magazine named Capital Link the premier international shipping and maritime investor relations firm for North America and Europe.



James Lagos.

**JAMES H. and NIKE D. LAGOS** were recognized with the 2011 Milestone Preservation Award by the Ohio National Road Association for "their steadfast commitment to, and investment in, the preservation and revitalization of downtown Springfield through the restoration and rehabilitation of the historic Bushnell Building." The build-

ing dates to 1893 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. and Mrs. Lagos began restoring the building in the late 1990s.



John Catsimatidis.

**JOHN CATSIMATIDIS**, Chairman and CEO of United Refining Company, was featured on a *FOX News* segment discussing his company's commitment to sell only North American petroleum. The company owns more than 300 Kwik Fill, Country Fair, and Keystone gas stations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Ohio. The company has seen profits rise since it began

promoting that its gas is 100 percent American. "We think Americans feel good about it," Catsimatidis was quoted as saying. "I think it is very important that the United States becomes more self-sufficient, maybe not 100 percent, but we can get to a high number."

## SAVE THE DATE

Monday, October 15, 2012



# AHI GENERAL NEWS

## AHI HOSTS 37TH HELLENIC HERITAGE ACHIEVEMENT AND AWARDS DINNER

Continued from page 1



Master of Ceremonies Alexis Christoforous.



Dr. Spiro Spireas, AHIF President, offers greetings.

AHI honored a distinguished set of awardees based upon their important career achievements and contributions to the Greek American community or community at-large. This year's honorees were: Kary Antholis, president, HBO Miniseries; E.J. "Mike" Elliott, CEO/chairman, GENCOR Industries; U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts; Sotirios J. Vahaviolos, Ph.D., CEO/chairman, Mistras Group, Inc.; and Ambassador Tom C. Korologos, former U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and strategic advisor, DLA Piper.

Alexis Christoforous, news correspondent, *CBS News*, was the evening's emcee. In her introductory remarks, she expressed confidence that Greece would emerge from its current financial crisis. AHI Secretary of the Board of Directors Nicholas G. Karambelas, Esq. introduced Christoforous.

The Marines of Headquarters Battalion presented the colors and the American and Greek national anthems were performed by Elena Stavarakas. Rev. Nicholas G. Manousakis, Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, offered the invocation. Apollonia Band provided the musical entertainment.

Opening the evening's program were AHI President Nick Larigakis and AHI Foundation President Dr. Spiro Spireas, both of whom offered greetings. In addition, they reviewed the initiatives and programs that AHI and AHIF provide the community.

### Honorees Humbled, Moved by Accolades

Oscar<sup>®</sup> and Emmy<sup>®</sup>-Award Winner **Kary Antholis** received the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award for his outstanding achievements in the performing arts. In acceptance of the award, Antholis stated, "And as we sit here tonight wearing our tuxedos, beautiful dresses, eating good food as the people of Greece facing hardship, we are reminded that during previous Greek calamities many of our ancestors made their great voyage here. They started with nothing, they found work at coal mines and factories, cleaning houses or they cut hair or drove cabs, some of them saved the money and started businesses or

put themselves through school and learned professions. Most of them focused on providing for their families and educating their children...they taught us to value hard work, education, filoxenia and opportunity. We Greeks find different ways to honor these values."

He concluded, "What does it mean to be a Greek American? It means that memory of standing in that tight foustanella with an American flag in one hand and a Greek flag on the other and seeing the pride and the love and the hope in my mother's eyes. And I know that we all have these memories, and so, our stories are virtually the same. So I share this recognition with all of you, and I accept it with humility and pride. Thank you."

**E.J. "Mike" Elliott** received the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award for his pioneering role in the heavy machinery industry and his passionate advocacy for Hellenic language and culture. He lamented not establishing a business presence in Greece, but expressed optimism that future generations will be able to fulfill this vision.

"In my 56 years in the industry, I developed a track record and a reputation for making things happen. My inability to accomplish anything businesswise in Greece will always haunt me. Notwithstanding my lack of success to create something good and do something for my beloved people of Greece and Crete, I still remain optimistic that within the next decade or two things will change in Greece, and we will have a more receptive government that will work with my grandsons and other Philhellenes to help our beloved Greece, and the people, attain the status that befits the descendants of the greatest nation of Greece.

"I conclude by extending my thanks and appreciation to the American Hellenic Institute...I thank each and every one of you for taking the time to show support to this event and to the Institute. I extend my warmest congratulations to my fellow honorees."

**U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA)** received the Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award for her commitment to public service and her unwavering support in strengthening United States relations with Greece and Cyprus. She spoke fondly about the influence her late husband, U.S. Senator and Democratic Presidential Candidate Paul Tsongas, had on her public service.

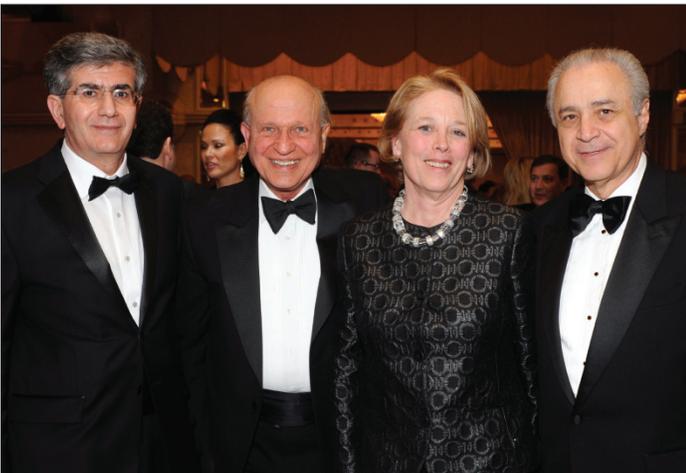
"People used to say to me, and still say to me, 'Who is your mentor?' I did not really have a mentor, but I grew up and lived with the most important, significant role model anybody could have and that was Paul Tsongas."

In addition, Congresswoman Tsongas spoke about working with her colleagues on Greek American issues, "I have been in Washington now four-plus years. It's been my great privilege to serve with some remarkable Greek Americans [...] It is my honor, working through the Hellenic Caucus, to advance the issues that are so important to the Greek American community, to this great organization. I thank you so much for this honor today, and it is one that I share with my husband who introduced me to this most remarkable community, and one that I am most proud to serve. Thank you very much."

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(L-R) James Marketos, AHI Board Member, Jim Lagos, former Senator Paul Sarbanes, and Dr. George Tsetsekos, Dean, LeBow College of Business, Drexel University.



(L-R) Ambassador of Cyprus to the U.S. Pavlos Anastasiades, Gene Rossides, AHI Founder, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Vassilis Kaskarelis.

**Sotirios J. Vahaviolos, Ph.D.** received the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award for his innovations as an engineer and his leadership in the development of greater business opportunities worldwide. In remarks, he touched on the fulfillment of the American Dream, the sacrifices that come with it, and the love and support provided by his family that helped to fulfill that Dream.

“I am deeply moved. On behalf of myself and my family, I want to thank the American Hellenic Institute, its President Nick Larigakis, and its Board of Directors for this prestigious award. It is indeed a privilege to live in the United States of America and recognize your American Dream. No other country in the world would accept a young village boy from Mistras, Sparti, Greece and help him attend the best universities, work in such an outstanding research institution as Bell Telephone Laboratories surrounded by Nobel Prize Winners and other well-known scientists, while training him to advance his ideas and patents and become a future job creator.

“Ladies and gentlemen, success comes with sacrifices and strong families. Without the stay-home mom Aspasia, families

and careers suffer. Thank you Aspasia for your love, commitment, dedication and job support. I owe more than half of our success to you...”

**Ambassador Tom C. Korologos** received the Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award for his decades of faithful public service in the United States and beyond. In Greek, he thanked and acknowledged dignitaries, including AHI Founder Gene Rossides, AHI President Nick Larigakis for “all the fine work” he performs, Senator Paul Sarbanes, Ambassadors Vassilis Kaskarelis and Pavlos Anastasiades, and his fellow honorees.

“I am proud, proud as can be, to say that us Greeks have come a long way since those immigrant ancestors of ours who crossed over to the United States in so many numbers, so many years ago. Here tonight, many in this room grew up in this first generation. We’ve set the pattern for later success as witnessed by the awardees tonight.”

He continued, “Here tonight, at this wonderful and memorable event, in front of my wife, brother, sister, cousins, daughter, son, grandson, friends all, I extend to you my profound thanks. And I close with a hopeful little thought that somewhere a father says to his young son, ‘Hey son, did you see that Korologos guy? The first generation Greek kid, who worked at his dad’s bar, was an altar boy, got a bunch of scholarships in college, worked on the paper and later in the Senate and the Capitol, chaired the American College of Greece for a number of years, became an Archon, worked in the White House, started a business, became an Ambassador? Did you see where a bunch of Greeks in Washington honored him the other night? I hope he might be an inspiration to you—to study hard, work hard, keep your nose clear, believe in your church, remember your roots, chase your passion and hopefully one day they’ll honor you as well.”

The honorees’ many accomplishments were celebrated throughout the evening, and highlighted in congratulatory letters submitted to AHI by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Ambassador of Greece to the United States Vassilis Kaskarelis, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Pavlos Anastasiades, World Council of Hellenes Abroad USA Region President Ted G. Spyropoulos, International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus President Philip Christopher, Hellenic American National Council President Paul Kotrotsios, Cyprus Federation of America President Panicos Papanicolaou, and Pancretan Association of America President John G. Manos.

**Special guests attending the event included:** Ambassador Kaskarelis, Ambassador Anastasiades, former U.S. Ambassador to Greece Tom Miller, former U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD), Reverend Steven Zorzos, Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, who represented His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios; and Fotini Tomai, director, Service of Diplomatic and Historical Archives, Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who provided one of the evening’s departing gifts, a book she edited on the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan.

## AHI GENERAL NEWS

### *U.S. Capitol Tour, European Debt Crisis Forum Comprise Weekend's Events*



*View of the dinner at the Cannon Caucus Room.*



*(L-R) Alexis Christoforou and Nick Larigakis during the Q&A session.*

As part of the weekend's festivities AHI hosted a tour of the U.S. Capitol, in cooperation with the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, and held a dinner in the famous Cannon Caucus Room on March 9. AHI hosted CBS News Correspondent Alexis Christoforou for a breakfast presentation on the topic "Why Americans Should Care about the European Debt Crisis?" on March 10 at the Capital Hilton. Christoforou shared her insights on this very complex yet relevant topic based upon her decades of experience as an Emmy-nominated reporter specializing in the business world.

## SAVE THE DATE



## 11th Annual Future of Hellenism Conference

**November 16-17, 2012  
Atlanta, Georgia**

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Published by the American Hellenic Institute, Inc.

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